

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) supported passage today of the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007 by 231 to 191. The bill, H.R. 2419, invests in family farmers, renewable energy, and nutrition programs for families in need.

"The Farm Bill represents a fair compromise that will go a long way in sustaining our agricultural system as well as supporting vital nutrition, conservation, research programs and a GAO study I recommended examining wastewater infrastructure along the border," said Congressman Rodriguez. "This bill will serve communities across my district, including vegetable farmers in Uvalde, families in need in San Antonio, ranchers in West Texas, and countless others. I thank Chairman Peterson for valuing the experiences of farmers and ranchers in this bill, as well as the need along the border for improved wastewater systems. Communities like Clint, Presidio and others may face significant public health threats without improved infrastructure and access to clean water and this study will go a long way to resolving this critical issue."

Congressman Rodriguez introduced border wastewater infrastructure language that directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study of wastewater infrastructure along the US-Mexico border where many communities are living with inadequate sewage management systems. The GAO study will determine what steps the federal government can take to bring inadequate wastewater systems in rural border communities up to date.

H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007, directs funds to working family farmers, renewable energy, and nutrition programs for families in need. The bill passed today cuts farm subsidies by more than half a billion dollars.

Highlights of the Farm Bill include:

- \$1.5 billion in funding for fruit and vegetable programs
- \$2 billion in loan guarantees for the development of refineries that process renewable fuels
- \$1.5 billion for production incentives for ethanol and biodiesel made from agricultural, forest, and waste plant materials
- Expansion of nutrition programs that help 35 million low-income families, including nearly doubling the funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and expanding the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to all 50 states.

The Farm Bill is supported by the American Farm Bureau, the National Farmers Union, The

Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The Wildlife Society, and American Farmland Trust, Second Harvest, Voices for America's Children, and the NCS Food Program Association.

The Farm Bill will now proceed through a Conference Committee with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.